

CLAIMS

We claim:

1. A method comprising:
receiving user input associated with a printmode selection;
mapping said printmode selection to one or more parameter values associated with the printmode; and
providing the user with feedback associated with consequences of their printmode selection.
2. The method of claim 1, wherein said act of receiving is performed using a hard user interface.
3. The method of claim 1, wherein said act of receiving is performed using a soft user interface.
4. The method of claim 1, wherein said act of receiving is performed by at least one printer.
5. The method of claim 1, wherein said act of receiving is performed by at least one host computer in operable communication with at least one printer.
6. The method of claim 1, wherein said act of receiving comprises receiving user input associated with ink density.
7. The method of claim 1, wherein said act of receiving comprises receiving user input associated with throughput.

8. The method of claim 1, wherein at least one of the parameter values is associated with error hiding.
9. The method of claim 1, wherein the act of providing is performed by providing the user with feedback on print quality associated with the printmode selection.
10. The method of claim 1, wherein the act of providing is performed by providing the user with feedback on one or more parameter values associated with the printmode selection.
11. The method of claim 10, wherein at least one parameter value comprises a value associated with estimated printing time.
12. The method of claim 10, wherein at least one parameter value comprises a value associated with ink or toner density.
13. The method of claim 1 further comprising effecting printing using the selected printmode.
14. A method comprising:
 - receiving user input that pertains to selection of a printmode that is not a pre-defined printmode for a particular printer; and
 - providing the user with feedback that pertains to a selected printmode.

15. The method of claim 14, wherein said act of receiving comprises receiving input pertaining to print quality.
16. The method of claim 14, wherein said act of receiving comprises receiving input pertaining to throughput.
17. The method of claim 14, wherein said act of receiving comprises receiving input pertaining to print quality and throughput.
18. The method of claim 14 further comprising responsive to receiving said user input, adjusting one or more printmode parameters.
19. The method of claim 18, wherein at least one parameter comprises a scan speed parameter.
20. The method of claim 18, wherein at least one parameter comprises a parameter associated with print masks.
21. The method of claim 18, wherein at least one parameter comprises a parameter associated with nozzle firing frequency.
22. The method of claim 18, wherein at least one parameter comprises a parameter associated with drops per pixel.
23. The method of claim 18, wherein at least one parameter comprises a parameter associated with scan direction.

24. The method of claim 18, wherein said parameters comprise parameters selected from a group of parameters associated with scan speed, print masks, nozzle firing frequency, and drops per pixel.

25. The method of claim 18, wherein said act of providing comprises providing the user with feedback that pertains to an expected change in print quality responsive to said user input.

26. The method of claim 14 further comprising saving a printmode selection as a user-defined print mode.

27. One or more computer-readable media having computer-readable instructions thereon which, when executed by one or more processors, cause the one or more processors to execute a method comprising:

receiving user input that pertains to selection of a printmode that is not a pre-defined printmode for a particular printer; and

providing the user with feedback that pertains to the selected printmode.

28. The one or more computer-readable media of claim 27, wherein the act of receiving comprises receiving input pertaining to print quality.

29. The one or more computer-readable media of claim 27, wherein the act of receiving comprises receiving input pertaining to throughput.

30. The one or more computer-readable media of claim 27, wherein the act of receiving comprises receiving input pertaining to print quality and throughput.

31. The one or more computer-readable media of claim 27, wherein the method further comprises responsive to receiving said user input, adjusting one or more printmode parameters.

32. The one or more computer-readable media of claim 31, wherein at least one parameter comprises a scan speed parameter.

33. The one or more computer-readable media of claim 31, wherein at least one parameter comprises a parameter associated with print masks.

34. The one or more computer-readable media of claim 31, wherein at least one parameter comprises a parameter associated with nozzle firing frequency.

35. The one or more computer-readable media of claim 31, wherein at least one parameter comprises a parameter associated with drops per pixel.

36. The one or more computer-readable media of claim 31, wherein said parameters comprise parameters selected from a group of parameters associated with scan speed, print masks, nozzle firing frequency, and drops per pixel.

37. The one or more computer-readable media of claim 27, wherein the method further comprises saving a printmode selection as a user-defined print mode.

38. A user interface component comprising:

a printmode selection component configured to receive user input that pertains to selection of a printmode that is not a pre-defined printmode for a particular printer; and

a user feedback component configured to provide the user with feedback that pertains to a selected printmode.

39. The user interface component of claim 38, wherein said printmode selection component comprises at least one hard control.

40. The user interface component of claim 38, wherein said printmode selection component comprises at least one soft control embodied on a computer-readable medium.

41. The user interface component of claim 38, wherein said printmode selection component is configured to receive input pertaining to print quality.

42. The user interface component of claim 38, wherein said printmode selection component is configured to receive input pertaining to throughput.

43. The user interface component of claim 38, wherein said printmode selection component is configured to receive input pertaining to print quality and throughput.

44. The user interface component of claim 38, wherein said user feedback component is configured to provide feedback that pertains to estimated printing time.

45. The user interface component of claim 38, wherein said user feedback component is configured to provide feedback that pertains to print quality.

46. The user interface component of claim 38, wherein said user feedback component is configured to provide feedback that pertains to printhead life.

47. The user interface component of claim 38, embodied on at least one host computer that is connected to an associated printer.

48. The user interface component of claim 38, embodied on at least one printer.

49. The user interface component of claim 38, wherein said printmode selection component is configured to enable a user to make a selection along a continuum of printing speeds.

- 50.** An apparatus comprising:
- means for receiving user input that pertains to selection of a printmode that is not a pre-defined printmode for a particular printer; and
- means for providing the user with feedback that pertains to a selected printmode.
- 51.** The apparatus of claim 50, wherein said means for receiving comprises at least one hard control.
- 52.** The apparatus of claim 50, wherein said means for receiving comprises at least one soft control.
- 53.** The apparatus of claim 50, wherein said means for providing a user with feedback comprises a window.
- 54.** The apparatus of claim 50, wherein said means for providing a user with feedback comprises a soft window.
- 55.** The apparatus of claim 50, wherein said means for providing a user with feedback comprises a hard window.
- 56.** The apparatus of claim 50, wherein said means for providing a user with feedback comprises a window, and said feedback comprises information that pertains to print quality.

57. The apparatus of claim 50, wherein said means for providing a user with feedback comprises a window, and said feedback comprises information that pertains to printing speed.

58. The apparatus of claim 50, wherein said means for providing a user with feedback comprises a window, and said feedback comprises information that pertains to printhead life.

59. The apparatus of claim 50, wherein said means for providing a user with feedback comprises a window, and said feedback comprises information that pertains to a number of printing passes.

60. A printer embodying the apparatus of claim 50.

61. A host computer embodying the apparatus of claim 50.

62. A user interface component comprising:

an ink density control configured to allow a user to select an amount of ink that is to be placed on a print media; and

a feedback window configured to provide a user with feedback associated an ink density selection made by the user.

63. The user interface component of claim 62, wherein said feedback comprises a printmode name.

64. The user interface component of claim 62, wherein said feedback comprises a number of passes to be made.

65. The user interface component of claim 62, wherein said feedback comprises a printing direction.

66. The user interface component of claim 62, wherein said feedback comprises estimated printing time.

67. A printer embodying the user interface component of claim 62.

68. The user interface component of claim 62 further comprising an alternate printmode control configured to enable a user to select between multiple print masks for a given printmode.

69. The user interface component of claim 62 further comprising a color/mono control configured to enable a user to select printheads that are used for printing.

70. A user interface component comprising:

a throughput control configured to enable a user to make a selection between print speed and quality;

a feedback window configured to provide a user with feedback associated with a throughput selection made by the user.

71. The user interface component of claim 70, wherein said feedback comprises a printmode name.

72. The user interface component of claim 70, wherein said feedback comprises a number of passes to be made.

73. The user interface component of claim 70, wherein said feedback comprises a printing direction.

74. The user interface component of claim 70, wherein said feedback comprises estimated printing time.

75. A printer embodying the user interface component of claim 70.

76. The user interface component of claim 70 further comprising an alternate printmode control configured to enable a user to select between multiple print masks for a given printmode.

77. The user interface component of claim 70 further comprising a color/mono control configured to enable a user to select printheads that are used for printing.

78. A user interface component comprising:
- an ink density control configured to allow a user to select an amount of ink that is to be placed on a print media;
 - a throughput control configured to enable the user to make a selection between print speed and quality;
 - an alternate printmode control configured to enable the user to select between multiple print masks for a given printmode;
 - a color/mono control configured to enable the user to select printheads that are used for printing; and
 - a feedback window configured to provide a user with feedback associated with selections made by the user.
79. The user interface component of claim 78, wherein said feedback comprises a printmode name.
80. The user interface component of claim 78, wherein said feedback comprises a number of passes to be made.
81. The user interface component of claim 78, wherein said feedback comprises a printing direction.
82. The user interface component of claim 78, wherein said feedback comprises estimated printing time.
83. A printer embodying the user interface component of claim 78.